

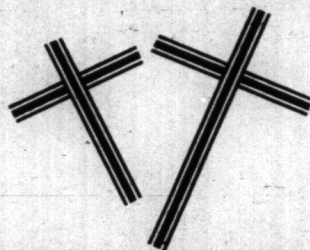
# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, January 18, 1990

Published Since 1877

## Two crosses plus complaint equals 200



WAUCONDA, Ill. (EP) — Things didn't work out quite the way atheist Robert Sherman planned when he threatened to sue Wauconda, Illinois, unless civic leaders removed lighted crosses from the town's two water towers.

Residents decided not to fight the threatened "separation of church and state" lawsuit, because of the estimated cost of \$41-\$82 per household. So the crosses disappeared from the water tower . . . and started to appear on private property.

Scores of crosses now adorn the homes and businesses of Wauconda. Homemade crosses can be seen in front yards and windows. People are using their TV antennas to support lights hung in the shape of a cross. To make up for the two crosses that were taken down by the threat of a lawsuit, this town of 5,911 has erected over 200 crosses.

"It was just kind of spontaneous," said Bobby Mers, who put one of the crosses from a water tower on his restaurant. "I'm still kind of upset that it's not on the tower. I grew up with it."

"We felt very badly that this man could come in here that doesn't even live here, and say that we had to stop a tradition we've been doing for years," Katie Wolter told the Associated Press. "This is people's way of speaking out."

Sherman, national spokesman for American Atheists Inc., says the display of crosses by Wauconda residents shows resentment toward atheists rather than Christian faith. Byron Maher of Transfiguration Roman Catholic Church disagrees. "It's not attacking him at all," he said. "It is showing our Christianity. In fact, we've got countless people praying for him."

## AIDS ministry could spark Christian revival in Africa

By James H. Cox

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — If Christian people will take the risks to care for the thousands of people dying with AIDS in African nations, revival could be the result, Southern Baptist missionary physician Sam Cannata told students attending a seminar at MISSION 90.

"God is looking for some people who are willing to take some risks and to die for him if necessary. Maybe you are one of them," Cannata told about 200 participants in a seminar on ministering to people with AIDS during the four-day national missions conference here.

Cannata, 61, and serving in his fifth east African nation, on the Tanzanian island of Zanzibar, said: "There are only two things in life that are eternal — God's Word and people. While God never told us it (our work for him) would be easy, he did tell us it would be wonderful."

Born in Houston and educated at Baylor University and the University of Texas Medical School, Cannata has served with his wife, the former Ginny Curry of Greenville, Miss., since 1958 in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Ethiopia, the Sudan, Kenya and Tanzania.

In an interview he noted AIDS has not yet stricken the island of Zanzibar as it has Uganda, another east African nation, where the disease is "running rampant."

Fifty percent of patients in a Ugandan hospital tested HIV positive recently. "In all likelihood, 100 percent of them will wind up with AIDS," said Cannata.

The number of AIDS patients in Africa is doubling annually, he said.

But he pointed out AIDS is almost exclusively a sexually transmitted disease in Africa in contrast to the United States where AIDS also is transmitted by drug users sharing needles.

"AIDS can change the history of the world," said Cannata. "It is definitely changing the history of Africa."

And while AIDS may be a "difficult" problem in America, Cannata called it a "catastrophe" in Africa.

However, he warned students that AIDS is not only an African problem but also will touch their lives.

He cited a survey which found that 85 percent of students at a major state university said they were sexually active. He warned that AIDS will increasingly become a crisis in the heterosexual community as it already has become in the homosexual community in the United States.

"God is going to have to do something to bring us to our knees, to bring us to himself," said Cannata.

He urged Christian college students to "unapologetically lay claim" to God's Word and "live it" before fellow students.

## Baptists deliver medicine, food, clothes to Romania

By Mike Creswell

ARAD, Romania (BP) — Hungarian Baptists, working in cooperation with Southern Baptists, delivered more than two tons of food, clothing, and medical supplies to Romania Dec. 31.

The relief effort, part of an international drive to help the stricken country, was the first of several shipments to come from Baptists throughout Europe and other areas. Romanian Baptists are distributing the supplies in two areas near Timisoara, where the uprising against Romania's communist government began in December.

Romanians — including soldiers and rifle-toting civilian militia members — welcomed the relief vehicles with smiles, tears of joy, and V-for-victory signs. "You are the instruments of God," declared Romanian Baptist leader Traian Grecu as he welcomed one delivery team. Grecu, president of the Romanian Baptist Union, also leads Arad Baptist Association, made up of some 150 churches and 20,000 members.

Romania was reduced to poverty by

24 years of rule by communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. His regime ended with his execution amid bloody fighting in late December as citizens rose up and took over the government.

Most relief efforts have focused on Bucharest and other population centers, but relief workers said needs are pressing in smaller, more isolated towns and villages. Despite the current aid, needs in the country likely will be long-term, at least until new crops can be harvested next fall, cautioned Southern Baptist representative Errol Simmons. Based in Budapest, Hungary, Simmons helped deliver the shipment to Arad.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appropriated \$100,000 for Romania relief — an initial \$10,000 emergency grant to be followed by another \$90,000 in coming weeks.

The Baptist shipments consisted of flour, sugar, rice, baby food, canned food, hospital equipment, antibiotics, insulin, and other drugs and medical supplies, medical textbooks, daily newspapers, Bibles in the Hungarian and Romanian languages, and other

Christian literature. One of the Romanians' greatest hungers is for reading materials, especially Bibles and other Christian literature long denied them, Baptists said.

The actual amount of the drugs and medical supplies provided through Foreign Mission Board funds exceeded what the relief funds normally would have bought because a Hungarian church member arranged a bulk purchase at reduced prices. Hungarian Baptists in the Szeged area collected most of the other items going to Arad under direction of pastor Arpad Revesz.

Hungarians feel a special kinship with the estimated 2.5 million ethnic Hungarians who live in an area of Romania once part of Hungary. Ethnic Hungarians there were forbidden to speak their native language and were targeted by Ceausescu for repressive measures, including the wholesale destruction of Hungarian villages and churches.

Mike Creswell, missionary correspondent to Europe, visited Romania.



As a Romanian soldier and others look on, Hungarian Baptist pastor Arpad Revesz (left) helps unload medical supplies at a hospital in Arad, Romania. Baptists in Hungary, in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, delivered more than two tons of food, clothing, drugs and medical supplies to Romania Dec. 31. The shipment also included Bibles in two languages and other literature. An initial \$10,000

emergency grant from Southern Baptists to help Romania will be followed by another \$90,000 in relief aid in coming weeks. Romanian medical officials reported they were very low in medical supplies even before the rebellion that toppled the ruling Communist regime began. (BP) PHOTO By Mike Creswell



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## The child care bill

It seems that an undesirable bill that has been before the Congress of the United States is dead for the moment in that Congress adjourned last year's session without passing the child care bill. The 1990 session begins this month, and who knows what will happen?

The bill was opposed by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs because there were provisions which allowed federal money to go to church-run day care centers if there were no religious education efforts put forth by those centers. The bill was opposed by Albert Lee Smith, chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Public Affairs Committee and perhaps some other members of the committee because under the bill the federal government would not provide federal money if the church-run day care center put forth any religious education efforts.

We would have to agree with the Baptist Joint Committee. Churches don't need federal money to help them carry on their work. If the day care center bill comes up again, we hope churches will be left out of it altogether.

We certainly cannot agree with Smith. We could not be content with seeing our federal tax money going to a Mormon day center that was engaged in providing religious education from a Mormon perspective. And for that reason we also could not be content with seeing our federal tax money going to a Baptist day care center that was engaged in providing religious education from a Baptist perspective.

It seems certain that attempts will be made during the meeting of the SBC Executive Committee next month to do away with the funding coming from Southern Baptists for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public

Affairs. That would be a shame, and hopefully it won't happen. The Baptist Joint Committee has done a magnificent job for all Baptists in the United States for 51 years.

It needs to be remembered that Southern Baptists began the Baptist Joint Committee and asked eight other conventions to participate. Now we have those who want to abandon it.

It is much better to have the nine Baptist conventions represented in finding a Baptist position than to have what is happening with the Public Affairs Committee. That committee is the Southern Baptist representation on the Baptist Joint Committee. But the Public Affairs Committee has its own newsletter, an executive committee, and an organization with a pretty healthy budget all its own provided by all Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program.

So now we are not only paying a generous portion of the budget for the Baptist Joint Committee, as we have been for these many years; but we also are paying for a sizeable budget being used by the group of folks elected by the Southern Baptist Convention just to be our representatives on the Baptist Joint Committee. That has happened only in the last couple of years.

One of more of the members of the executive committee of the Public Affairs Committee now is presuming to speak for Southern Baptists in church-state matters when actually what Southern Baptists have said by resolution at a convention has been a completely different viewpoint. A 1988 resolution at San Antonio opposed any federal money being used in any way in church day care centers.

In an undated message to members of Congress signed only by Smith and mentioning no one else, Smith men-

tions strong opposition by the Southern Baptist Convention to the child care bill. That is true, but the convention opposed it for a different reason from that stated by Smith.

In his message, Smith calls for federal funding for church-run day care centers when there is religious instruction as if this were the official Southern Baptist position.

The message contains the complaint that religious day care centers should not have state regulation and the insistence that such unregulated religious day care centers should receive federal funds, even though some of those centers refer to their weekday child care activities as Sunday School during the week. Thereby, the government would be helping the churches to pay for their Sunday Schools. This is dangerous.

It appears that the SBC Public Affairs Committee is determined to separate itself from the Baptist Joint Committee and establish itself as a separate agency in Southern Baptist life.

There is no need for that. There is a need, however, for Southern Baptists to remain involved with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs both with adequate financial resources and with reasonable representation.

There is indication that the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission and the Public Affairs Committee have begun to get in the way of each other as they both have dealt with the same matters.

The Christian Life Commission now also wants a part of the Baptist Joint Committee action. The CLC is requesting a revised program statement for the agency. The revision would give the CLC the authority to operate

## Legislative report . . . Latest bills listed

A state legislator, a Baptist, called the Baptist Record last week. "We need help over here," he said. "This is war."

He was speaking of the struggle over a state-run lottery concept, and it was heating up last week. Pressures were mounting on the legislators to support the governor's call to use the lottery to support a part of his educational package.

The legislator told the Baptist Record, "There are a lot of people over here pushing for a lottery, but there are no Baptists here. We need some visibility."

So this is a call to get in touch with legislators — representatives and senators — and let them know that a lottery is not going to do what it is being touted as doing. Besides that, it is illegal and immoral.

The education package is a good thing. We are going to have to support our education efforts with taxes, however.

Probably not the least element in

the war that is going on in the Legislature was the closing of bingo operations last week. That came at a convenient time to incur the wrath of bingo players and cause them to put pressure on the Legislature to bring a lottery to a vote so that they could have a chance to go back to bingo playing.

The state's largest newspaper, the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, is putting tremendous pressure on the Legislature to make it possible for Mississippi to have a lottery. The paper is coming down hard on the chairman of the Senate constitution committee for resisting. He is Senator Hob Bryan of Amory. In an editorial dripping with sarcasm, the Clarion-Ledger accused Bryan of arrogance because he had said that as chairman of the committee he would not allow a lottery bill to come before his committee before its rightful place in line.

The other members of the Senate constitution committee are Glen Deweese of Meridian, Alan Heflin of

Forest, Bunky Huggins of Greenwood, Doug Anderson of Jackson, Jim Bean of Hattiesburg, Eddie Briggs of DeKalb, Hainon Miller of Greenville, and George Guerrieri of Southaven.

If lottery becomes a reality in Mississippi, it will be because Baptists have allowed it to happen. There are enough Baptists in the state to sway legislation any time we decide to do it.

The number at the Legislature is 359-3770.

New bills that have come before the legislature are as follows:

In the House:

H-612 — Suspend minor's license for driving with any measurable amount of alcohol in blood. Mike Gunn, Jackson, Judiciary A Committee.

H-624 — Certain proof constitutes prima facie of abuse or neglect of a child. John Reeves, Jackson; and Ken Stribling, Jackson, Judiciary B Committee.

FH-628 — Sex crime offense with child punished by death or life im-

prisonment. Mike Gunn, Jackson, Judiciary B Committee.

H-645 — Prohibit discrimination against persons with AIDS. Robert Underwood, Brookhaven; and Charles Sheppard, Lorman. Public Health Committee.

H-656 — Waiver of distance restrictions which pertain to manufacturing, selling, or storing liquor. Charles Weissinger, Rolling Fork. Ways and Means Committee.

H-717 — Extend hours in which certain persons may sell beer or wine on licensed premises. Will Green Poindexter, Inverness. Ways and Means Committee.

H-751 — Unlawful to desecrate U.S. flag. Charles Capps, Cleveland. Judiciary B Committee.

H-698 — Serve minimum of 25 years for life imprisonment sentence imposed for capital offense. Joseph Warren, Mt. Olive; Donald Alford, Ridgeland.

H-699 — Certain proof constitutes prima facie evidence of abuse or neglect of a child. William Singletary, Clinton. Judiciary B Committee.

H-703 — Re-define organizations authorized to conduct bingo and raffles. Ed Ryan, Biloxi. Judiciary B Committee.

H-704 — Pawn brokers maintain record of all purchases. Jim Ell-

ington, Jackson; Tommy Woods, Byhalia. Judiciary B Committee.

H-727 — Prohibiting cutting of magnolia trees. William Singletary, Clinton. Agriculture Committee.

H-757 — Prohibit carrying concealed weapon on school grounds. Ray Vecchio, Gautier. Judiciary B Committee.

H-766 — Revise child care facility licensing laws. Edward Buelow, Vicksburg. Public Health Committee.

HCR-82 — Commend Mississippi College - football champs. Entire membership. Rules Committee.

HR-18 — Create study committee to address revising alcoholic beverage control laws. Robert Underwood, Brookhaven. Rules Committee.

H-766 — Revise child care facility licensing laws. Edward Buelow, Vicksburg. Public Health Committee.

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'In the image of God'

(Genesis 1:27, RSV)



Observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday  
January 21, 1990

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

in the area of religious liberty.

Not only does this get in the way of the Public Affairs Committee, which wants to do the same thing, but it also puts the CLC on a collision course with the Baptist Joint Committee, which has been doing this for 51 years.

How many religious liberty operations do we need? And why does everybody want to get in on the act? The Baptist Joint Committee is doing it very well.

The Southern Baptist Convention has consistently declined to remove

its funding from the Baptist Joint Committee. Why cannot we accept that and move on?

We need a strong voice in Washington based on the thinking of a responsible group of people. We don't need varying opinions based on the thinking of just a few people — and maybe just one — and calling those opinions the official Southern Baptist position and paying for the opinions with hundreds of thousands of dollars of Cooperative Program money.

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# Top Soviet official okays Baptist seminary in Moscow

By Art Toalston

MOSCOW (BP) — A top Soviet official has endorsed the opening of a Baptist seminary within walking distance of the Kremlin, according to leaders of the nation's Baptist union.

Anatoly Lokyanov, vice president of the Soviet Parliament and first deputy to Mikhail Gorbachev, met with two Baptist leaders Dec. 29 and was quoted as saying, "You shall have your building and your property for your needs."

Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board last year set aside \$200,000 from the denomination's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

to help Soviet Baptists launch the seminary.

Lokyanov's endorsement of the seminary came during a session with Vasili Logvinenko, president of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, and Alexei Bichkov, the union's general secretary.

The meeting marked the first time ever a top Soviet official has received Baptist leaders, Bichkov said.

Baptists received written permission for the seminary from the Soviet Office of Religious Affairs last February. At that time, Baptist leaders and Soviet officials discussed

several possible seminary sites, several more than two hours from Moscow by car. They since have agreed on use of a two-story building in Moscow that formerly housed a kindergarten. Baptists plan to add a third floor, expanding the building to 1,500 square meters.

The building is several blocks from the Baptist union's headquarters and within a couple of miles of the Kremlin, said Keith Parker, who directs Southern Baptist work in Europe.

Bichkov said the Baptist union envisions opening a full-time, four-year course of study for 20 theological

students by 1992 if talks with the government proceed smoothly. The enrollment later will expand to 40, he said.

The new seminary will not eliminate the need for a Bible correspondence course begun by the Baptist union in the late 1960s, Bichkov said. More than 600 church leaders have completed the three-year theology program or two-year music curriculum. The council plans to add a fourth year of ministerial training. Enrollment stands at about 100 per year.

During the Dec. 29 meeting with the Soviet official, discussion included the persecution Baptists have weathered

over the years, Bichkov said. The official promised conditions will be much better for all religious groups in the future. He also promised Baptists would have the opportunity to suggest changes in Soviet law regarding religious freedom once an initial draft of the changes is completed.

The Soviet Union's 548,000 Baptists comprise the fourth-largest constituency of the Baptist World Alliance, after the United States, India, and Brazil. The Soviet Union encompasses one-sixth of the world's land mass and more than 100 language groups. Baptists currently are found in about 30 language groups in the nation.

Art Toalston writes for the FMB.

## Read Bible in '90, Bennett asks Baptists

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists should join Christians from around the world in reading the entire Bible this year, urged Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

The U.S. Congress has passed a joint resolution authorizing and requesting President Bush to issue a proclamation declaring 1990 the International Year of Bible Reading. Bush is expected to comply by the end of January, Bennett said.

"The Bible is God's message to our world," Bennett noted. "The Bible is God's word of love, hope, direction and fulfillment in a world of hate, despair, confusion and dissatisfaction. That

message from the Lord is needed now, more than ever."

Messengers to the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting last summer adopted a resolution designating 1990 as the International Year of Bible Reading.

The resolution passed by Congress states: "The Bible has made a unique contribution in shaping the United States as a distinctive and blessed nation and people. Deeply held convictions springing from the Bible led to the early settlement of our nation. The history of our nation clearly illustrates the value of voluntarily applying the teachings of the Bible in the lives of individuals and families."

## Record \$32.9 million given in 1989 Annie Armstrong Offering

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptists gave a record \$32,960,700 to home missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in 1989, according to figures released by the denomination's Home Mission Board.

Mississippi Baptists gave to the home missions offering a total of \$1,847,651.16, according to Fran Pickett of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

Mississippi Baptists, numbering

about 600,000, total 4.3 percent of the 14 million Southern Baptists, but their home missions gifts are about 5.6 percent of the total.

The unaudited national total was an increase of 6.8 percent, or \$2.1 million, from gifts received the previous year.

The amount also was \$2 million more than the board had budgeted in 1989 as anticipated income, but fell \$6 million short of the \$39 million offer-

(Continued on page 4)



## New Health Care System officers

Joseph H. Powell (right), president of Baptist Memorial Health Care System, describes for new system officers features of the new Plaza East Office Building and Diagnostic Center under construction at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis. The new officers chosen December 12 at a semi-annual board meeting, are (from left) Clarence Stanford of Ripley, MS, chairman; Tommy Hargrove of Warren, AR, first vice chairman; W. Fred Kendall, II of Franklin, TN, second vice chairman; S. Powers Smith of Henning, TN, secretary, and Bob Harrison of Jonesboro, AR, chairman of the system's executive committee.

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

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Thursday, January 18, 1990

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## WMU installs O'Brien as 6th national executive

By Susan Todd

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Dellanna W. O'Brien was installed as the sixth executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Jan. 9.

The installation service, which was held during the WMU executive board meeting, was the first formal installation of an executive director in the organization's 101-year history.

In the service, O'Brien gave her first address to the WMU executive board. She told the group of nearly 300 board members and guests that the causes for which WMU was founded will continue to be central under her leadership.

"I reaffirm that commitment (to

missions), along with the pledge to continued loyalty and devotion to the cause which binds us all together," she said.

"The mission for '90 is 'Go.' Our charge is clear. The resources are available. The need is urgent. All that remains is to obey the command.

Woman's Missionary Union stands ready to do our part. Our call to arms unifies and deploys us. So now, go."

During the installation service, a WMU insignia-shaped medallion was invested on O'Brien by WMU President Marjorie J. McCullough. The medallion was cast for the occasion and will be used during installation services for future national WMU ex-

ecutive directors.

The official portrait of O'Brien was unveiled during the service. It will hang in the national headquarters building in Birmingham, Ala.

O'Brien's husband, Bill, who is a special assistant to the president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, sang a solo during the service.

O'Brien recognized the six former national WMU leaders who attended the service: former presidents Helen Fling, Christine Gregory, Dorothy Sample, and Marjorie J. McCullough, and former executive directors Alma Hunt and Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler.

In her address, she described them (Continued on page 7)

## Commission initiates study of Baptist higher education

By Jim Futral

The Education Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention met in Jackson, Jan. 11. The purpose of the meeting was to initiate the study of Baptist higher education in Mississippi as was indicated to the convention in November, 1989. The scope of the study is to include a consideration of the roles, the missions, the purposes, financial support, and other areas that may be deemed relevant pertaining to each of the individual institutions.

In the discussion which ensued, the Commission reaffirmed its strong and guiding conviction that Mississippi Baptists need to be providing, as never before, quality Christian higher education. Acknowledging the limitations imposed on our schools by inadequate resources and even conceding

human deficiencies, the commissioners pointed to the positive results provided by our colleges through the years in preparing teachers, pastors, and missionaries, and community and church leaders.

In seeking to refine a plan to carry out the study, four conclusions were drawn:

1. It will be necessary to secure the services of trained educational consultants.
2. It will be important to receive input and insights from the present leadership of our institutions.
3. That a methodology be devised whereby all of Mississippi Baptists can participate in the study by giving their views and sharing their dreams for Christian education.
4. The Commission, the ad-

ministrators of our schools, and the faculty and student bodies of our institutions, along with all the people in our churches, must recognize that more than just an infusion of money or some attempt at restructuring our schools, there is a far greater need for spiritual renewal to take place in Baptist life. Our Mississippi Baptist schools, as well as our churches, need spiritual revival.

The Commission requests the prayer support of Mississippi Baptists as it will be meeting regularly to conduct the study.

Jim Futral, immediate past president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, is a member of the Education Commission.



Thursday, January 18, 1990

## Evangelism Report

Helping To Bring Mississippi  
And The World To Jesus

	Churches Reporting	Gospel Presentations	Number of Conversions
Adams			
Alcorn			
Attala			
Benton			
Bolivar			
Calhoun			
Carroll			
Chickasaw			
Choctaw	3	6	6
Clarke			
Clay			
Copiah			
Covington			
Franklin	12		0
George			
Greene			
Grenada			
Gulfcoast			
Hinds-Madison	2	6	5
Holmes			
Humphreys			
Itawamba			
Jackson	31	63	6
Jasper			
Jeff Davis			
Jones			
Kemper			
Lafayette			
Lamar	2	3	3
Lauderdale			
Lawrence			
Leake			
Lebanon	25	57	19
Lee			
Leflore			
Lincoln			
Lowndes			
Marion			
Marshall			
Mississippi			
Monroe			
Montgomery			
Neshoba			
New Choctaw			
Newton			
North Delta			
Northwest			
Noxubee			
Oktibbeha			
Panola			
Pearl River			
Perry			
Pike			
Pontotoc			
Prentiss			
Rankin			
Scott			
Sharkey-Issaquena			
Simpson			
Smith			
Sunflower	1	3	2
Tallahatchie			
Tippah			
Tishomingo			
Union			
Union Co.			
Walhatt			
Warren			
Washington			
Wayne			
Webster	4	16	14
Winston			
Yalobusha	5	15	3
Yazoo			

# FMB continues reorganization

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — After four months of home-office reorganization, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has redefined several staff and department functions and cut 14 staff positions.

Last fall board President R. Keith Parks said the reorganization would help the mission agency "focus more sharply on crucial needs in world missions and achieve more effective use of funds and people in high-priority areas."

Parks predicted the change likely would result in reduction of 21 staff positions — about five percent of the board's home office staff — by the end of 1990. "We will utilize vacancies, attrition, and transfers within staff to achieve most of the reductions," he said.

Fourteen staff positions had been eliminated by Jan. 5, reported Bob Shoemaker, executive assistant to Parks. Most reductions so far have been carried out by cutting vacant positions or by transferring staff members displaced by reorganization to other assignments. But the next round of cuts "will be hard," Shoemaker said, and likely will affect some staff members who cannot be reassigned.

The reorganization grew out of a study conducted by a staff committee, which followed a similar study Parks asked overseas missionaries to do in relation to their work. The plan called for streamlining functions, shifting funds and functions between offices, and a stronger role for regional vice presidents in management of overseas affairs.

Don Kammerdiener was elected in October to the expanded role of executive vice president proposed by Parks. Kammerdiener has assumed direction of day-to-day operations of the board, freeing Parks to concentrate on strategic planning and other key needs.

Initial changes included shifting coordination of missionary budgets and policies from the former office of mission management and personnel to the new regional office group, headed by regional vice presidents. That group also includes area directors located overseas who oversee foreign mission work in nine geographic areas.

Other shifts resulting from the reorganization and personnel changes include:

— Mission personnel: The former office of mission management and personnel has become the office of mission personnel, with two associate vice presidents continuing to work with the vice president. One is Tim Brendle, who will supervise the departments of missionary enlistment, personnel selection and international service. The other is Thurmon Bryant, who has responsibility for the departments of missionary learning, health, family ministry, and volunteers in missions.

Formerly known as the international lay missions department, the international service department will enlist long-term volunteers, "tent-makers" and other non-missionary personnel. Under the reorganization, it also takes in the student section.

The student section formerly was part of the nurture department, which has been dissolved.

— Human needs: John Cheyne became associate director of the office of research and planning, which has incorporated the work of the human needs department he former-

ly directed. Cheyne will continue coordinating the board's human needs ministries and will assume the role of FMB crisis coordinator, involving missionaries and how they relate to unstable conditions in the world.

— Missionary health: Van Williams, formerly associate director for health care in the human needs department, was named director of the missionary health department.

Under the reorganization, the department will include a family ministries section, led by Senior Consultant Truman Smith. Smith was director of the former missionary services department.

— Development: David Coleman was named director of the development office, which provides financial avenues for donors to support missions over and above Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering giving.

— Communications: The former office of communications and public relations became the office of communications. Denomination-related public relations functions moved to the newly created area of public affairs in the president's office.

Irma Duke, formerly assistant vice president for operations in the office of communications and public relations, was named associate vice president for communications support. Besides assisting the vice president for communications, Duke now supervises the directors of the print, media services, audiovisual, and The Commission magazine departments.

Bob Ethridge, formerly director of the audiovisual department, was named assistant vice president for communications strategy. Van Payne, senior producer in the audiovisual department, succeeded Ethridge as director of that department. Mark Snowden, formerly media network coordinator, was named media network consultant.

The news and information office, formerly the news and information services department, relates directly to the communications vice president.

Assisting the director as managing editor will be Robert O'Brien, formerly overseas correspondent manager. O'Brien will continue to supervise the overseas correspondent system.

— Public affairs: The new public affairs unit will handle the public affairs functions of the president's office, including denominational relations, mission conferences and the board's new Global Desk.

## Annie offering . . .

(Continued from page 3)

ing goal. The \$2.1 million increase is more than three times the increase of \$611,192, or 2.02 percent, which was received in the 1988 offering. Southern Baptists gave \$30.8 million to home missions that year.

HMB President Larry Lewis said the \$2 million more than budgeted will help overcome a financial setback at the board earlier this year and will be budgeted as income in future years to support mission work on the field. HMB policy stipulates that all Annie Armstrong funds must be used in state conventions, not at the board's offices in Atlanta.

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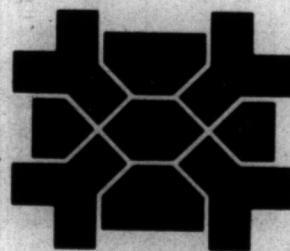
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# Lewis affirms role of women, asks WMU to help tell them

By Susan Todd

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis affirmed the role of women in church and in society in his address to the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union executive board Jan. 8.

"We need your help in communicating to women that the Home Mission Board strongly affirms and supports the involvement of women in missions, and in evangelism, and in ministry," he told them.

"Through the Home Mission Board, women serve in every missionary role except that of local church pastor. We need your help in clearly communicating to Southern Baptists that the Home Mission Board affirms and supports women in ministry and in missions."

Lewis referred to information on changing roles of women in America

presented by Home Mission Board researcher Orrin Morris.

"The thing that troubles me most is his estimate that there are at least 12.7 million 'angry women' in the United States — and I think I've gotten letters from most of them," Lewis said.

"Some of them are angry at the Home Mission Board. Some of them believe that the Home Mission Board is anti-women. Nothing could be further from the truth. I say that seriously, and I say that sincerely."

Lewis challenged WMU to join the Home Mission Board in a renewed emphasis on three topics in the decade of the 1990s — volunteerism, ministries, and evangelism within cities, and spiritual renewal and awakening.

Lewis told the group they should not be surprised to learn that more women than men were involved in

missions service through the Home Mission Board last year.

"A grand total of 23,079 women were involved in missions service through the Home Mission Board, compared to 21,869 men. It is no surprise to you that women lead the way in missions service. I am encouraged by our progress in the involvement of women in missions. But we need to do so much more," he said.

America's cities illustrate another area of home mission work where Southern Baptists need to do more, Lewis noted.

"Our research indicates 76 percent of the people in America live in urban areas. Yet only 12,000 of our churches and missions are located in those areas, compared to 30,000 in our rural areas," he said.

A new emphasis must be placed on establishing churches in the black and

ethnic areas of cities, he stressed.

"To do this, more blacks and ethnics must assume in our denomination key leadership roles," he said. The day of tokenism for ethnics and blacks is over. We must root out any hint of racism or prejudice and press forward with initiatives that encourage and affirm leaders from the 88 language and cultural groups that worship in Southern Baptist congregations each Sunday.

"The Home Mission Board cannot minister to America alone," Lewis said.

"We work in partnership with other Southern Baptist Convention agencies, including Woman's Missionary Union, with the state conventions and with associations," he said.

Lewis gave an example of the difference WMU can make in the local church and in the state convention.

"A recent study in Kansas-Nebraska revealed that churches with a WMU organization gave 123 percent more per member to the Cooperative Program unified budget than churches without a WMU," he said. "And they gave 83 percent more per member to home missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering than churches without WMU."

"The 60 percent of Kansas-Nebraska churches that have active WMU program give 92 percent of the total Cooperative Program receipts in their convention and 91 percent of its Annie Armstrong Easter Offering total," he said.

"I think this affirms that which all of us know. There is nothing more important in a church than mission action, mission support, and mission education," he said.

Susan Todd writes for WMU.

## Southern Seminary declares student's charges untrue

By David Wilkinson

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Southern Seminary's trustee executive committee has affirmed President Roy L. Honeycutt's determination that recent charges against a seminary professor are "completely unsubstantiated."

In a letter addressed to Daniel O. Aleshire, seminary director of professional studies, Clark D. Kirkbride, a theology student from Jeffersonville, Ind., requested that he be withdrawn from the school here.

Kirkbride then accused seminary ethics professor Paul D. Simmons of a series of statements and actions regarding the sexuality of Jesus. According to Kirkbride, the statements were made in a course on "The Church and Sexuality" taught by Simmons during the fall semester.

Honeycutt said the seminary has declined to be specific about the accusations because "they have been found to be totally unsubstantiated and, in my judgment, libelous."

An investigation of Kirkbride's charges by School of Theology Dean Larry L. McSwain concluded that each of the accusations was "patently untrue." In addition to conversations with Kirkbride, Simmons, and a

director of missions who received a copy of Kirkbride's letter, McSwain conducted personal interviews with 38 of the 58 students in the class taught by Simmons. None of the students' testimonies, he reported, corroborated any of Kirkbride's charges.

Kirkbride's letter to Aleshire indicated that copies were sent to Honeycutt, Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines, three local seminary trustees, two Baptist state newspapers, and four other individuals.

Several days before Honeycutt received his copy, however, copies of the letter were sent by the three trustees to the seminary's 60 other trustees.

Honeycutt said he is "deeply troubled" that "false reports have been circulating throughout the Southern Baptist Convention."

He said circulation of the student's accusations "has been unfair to Dr. Simmons, who is totally innocent of the charges, and to his faculty colleagues who are trying in a politically charged denominational climate to be faithful to their calling to the ministry of teaching."

David Wilkinson writes for Southern Seminary.



Left to right are Stan Weatherford, Landrum Leavell, and David L. Sumrall. Weatherford and Sumrall received doctoral degrees. Leavell is president of N.O. Seminary.

## Mississippians are graduated from New Orleans Seminary

Two from Mississippi received doctorates on Dec. 15 in commencement exercises at New Orleans Seminary, New Orleans, La. They were Stan Weatherford, doctor of ministry, who is now pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, Chipley, Fla., and David Lawrence Sumrall, doctor of theology, who is pastor at Bethel Church, Americus, Ga. Weatherford, a Floridian, is a graduate of Mississippi College; his wife is from Hazlehurst. Sumrall's home church is Big Ridge, Biloxi. His parents live in Ocean Springs.

Other Mississippi graduates included David Alan Whitehurst, Ellisville, master of religious education; Don G. Tillman, Newport News, Va., pastor of Sarepta Church, Meadville, master of divinity; Calvin Edward Thomas, Jackson, minister of music and organist at Mt. Helm Church, Jackson, master of divinity; Frank Porter, Ellisville, assistant BSU director at Jones County Junior College, master of divinity;

Raymond Moncrief, Pascagoula, minister of youth at Memorial Church, Metairie, La., master of divinity; Robert D. Keyes Jr., Petal,

pastor at Bethany Church, Prentiss, master of divinity; Larry Wesley Haggard, Macon, pastor of Pleasant Ridge Church, Sturgis, master of religious education; Ron Ethridge Jr., Birmingham, Ala., pastor of Antioch Church, Prentiss, master of divinity;

Jack DeMoney, Greenville, associate of divinity, with special emphasis in pastoral ministry; Patricia L. Cummings, Mantee, master of religious education; Andy Cummings, Itta Bena, minister of music at Mt. Vernon Church, Columbus, master of church music; David Bishop, Ecru, master of divinity; Kay Bennett, Kokomo, master of divinity; Dennis R. Atwood, Clinton, associate BSU director at USM, master of divinity;

William L. Stanford, Clinton, minister of activities at First Church, Yazoo City, master of religious education; Charles Gary Pittman Jr., Canton, minister of music at St. Bernard Church, Chalmette, La., master of church music; Gary Permenter of West Point, minister of youth at Mt. Vernon Church, Columbus, master of divinity; and James J. Ingram, Jackson, master of religious education.

## Crockett named associate dean

Bennie R. Crockett Jr. has been named associate dean of academic programs at William Carey College by President Jim Edwards.

Crockett, a Jackson native, has coordinated the Faculty Lecture Series at William Carey, and was chosen as Carey's outstanding professor to be honored by the Mississippi

Legislature in its initial "Higher Education Appreciation Day." He served as editor of the Institutional Self-Study for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, advisor to the Baptist Student Union, continues to coordinate the Thomas Staley Distinguished Lecture Series and is Chair of the Department of Religion and of the Division of Humanities.

## Carey to host workshop for children's workers

A workshop for teachers and workers with children's choirs will be held on the William Carey College campus in Hattiesburg, Jan. 26-27. The clinician for the workshop is Mrs. Linda Singleton, music consultant and supervisor for the Tennessee State Department of Education, Nashville.

Sessions will be held in Thomas Fine Arts Center on Friday, Jan. 26, from 6:30-9 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 27 from 8:30 until noon.

The workshop is presented by the Winters School of Music and William Carey College and is free of charge. Pre-school, public school, and church workers are invited to participate. For more information, call 582-6175.

## Reception to honor Nolan Houston

Carroll-Montgomery Association will hold a retirement reception on Jan. 21, to honor Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Houston.

Houston is retiring as director of missions for Carroll-Montgomery Association. The reception will be held at First Church, Winona, from 2 until 4 p.m. The public is invited.

The HMB's total budget for 1989 was \$78,866,979, including church loans.

## Cloverdale pastor dies in Texas

Ray Walters, pastor of Cloverdale Church, Natchez, died early Jan. 10 at the Veteran's Hospital in San Antonio, of cancer.

Walters, 63, was buried in Monroe, La., where he was born.

During his 40 years in the ministry, he had been pastor of Immanuel, Natchez; West End, West Point; East Fork, Liberty; Mt. Vernon, and several other student pastorates in Amite County. In Louisiana he served Grayson, Harrisonburg, and Start Churches.

Walters was a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

He is survived by his wife Dora, their daughter Becky Franklin of San Antonio, and one grandson, Brad.

Mrs. Walters said that memorials could be sent to the Foreign Mission Board in care of Cloverdale Church. Cloverdale Church built a mission in

Brazil and Walters was a large supporter of missions.

## T. A. Patterson dies in Dallas

DALLAS (BP) — T.A. Patterson, 83, executive director of the 2.4-million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas from 1961 to 1973, died Jan. 8 in Baylor Medical Center in Dallas, after a long illness.

Since 1979, as a resident of Trew Home in Dallas, he led a ministry of counseling and Bible study.

The Thomas Armour Patterson chair of missions has been established in his memory at Criswell College.

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## Q & A on drugs . . .

# What is chemical dependency?

The American Medical Association (AMA) defined alcoholism as a disease in 1956. The following is a definition of alcoholism based on the AMA statement:

Alcoholism is an illness characterized by significant impairment that is directly associated with a persistent and excessive use of alcohol. Impairment may involve physiological (medical problems), psychological (depression, anxiety, insomnia) or social (problems with family, friends, employer, school, law) dysfunction.

In 1987 the AMA extended this to all drugs of abuse.

The above definition implies several things either implicitly or explicitly.

1. Chemical dependency is an illness (disease).

2. Chemical dependency does not depend on how much, how often, or for how long one drinks or uses. You can be chemically dependent and use only on weekends, for example.

3. Withdrawal symptoms are not required to make the diagnosis.

4. Continued use in the face of medical, psychological, or social problems is adequate to make the diagnosis of chemical dependency.

This question was answered by Tom Milhorn, M.D., Ph.D. who is the medical staff director at Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center.

Please send all your questions about drug and alcohol dependency to Chaplain Don Nerren, 1225 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39202-2002, or call toll free outside Jackson at 1-800-962-6868 or in Jackson at 968-1102. All questions will be answered in letter form whether or not they appear in this column.

## China crackdown may have spurred church growth

By Michael Chute

NANJING, China (BP) — Six months after China's military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, Chinese Christians have yet to experience the negative repercussions many Western and Chinese observers predicted.

Chinese Christian leaders say church life and work continues as usual. Christians crowd into worship services; church buildings, confiscated during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, continue to reopen at a steady pace. The China Christian

Council reports an even greater interest in Christianity following the June 4 violence in Tiananmen Square.

"I did fear criticism of bourgeois liberalization (Western thought) might have adverse effects on the church, but this has not happened," said Bishop Ding Guangxun (K.H. Ting), president of the China Christian Council and chairman of Chinese Protestants' Three-Self Patriotic Movement.

Among evidence that churches apparently have weathered the crackdown:

— Christians at Grace Church in Shanghai reported the baptism of 400 new believers one Sunday in July.

— Two of Shanghai's 24 churches started Sunday schools for children last summer — a move many other churches may follow. Teaching the Bible to children was forbidden during the Cultural Revolution to prevent "indoctrination" of young people. Since they began reopening in 1979, churches generally have not offered formal religious training for children.

Mike Chute is a missionary journalist for the Foreign Mission Board.

## Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

### What is a gift anyway?

Editor:

Christmas is a time for giving; however, I would like to tell you about a five-year-old boy who really knows the meaning of giving.

My wife teaches kindergarten here in town. The week before Christmas she told the children in her class that she would be getting a little boy from the Baptist Children's Village for the Christmas holidays. She explained to her class that this little boy has no parents to spend his Christmas with.

One five-year-old boy came looking for me the Sunday morning before Christmas. Cade was in my wife's kindergarten class. His mother told me he had a present for the little boy from the Baptist Children's Village. I told Cade where the little boy was and he took the present and gave it to him.

That was really nice, and I think most of us give in this way, but then Cade's mother began to tell the rest of the story. It seems Cade was very disturbed when my wife told him this little boy had no parents. On that Sunday morning Cade told his mother he wanted to give the little boy a present. His mother told him they had not brought a present for the little boy and did not have one to give him. Cade then looked under the tree and then back to his mother and, with a very soft voice, said, "I have lots of presents under the tree. Can I give him one of mine?" Well, what could the mother say? He then picked out a present, not knowing what was in it; and that is the one he gave to the little boy.

Cade, a five-year-old, knows the real meaning of giving. This is the same kind of giving we experienced when

God gave Jesus to us. Have you given such a gift lately?

Ken Talley

Minister Music/Youth  
North Winona Baptist Church  
Winona

### Moral integrity

Editor:

It is not fair to ask the people to vote on lottery gambling at this time because of the way it is being presented. The bad is being presented with the good. This is an old political trick used by politicians to gain support for unpopular legislation such as taxes and other proposals. This trick has been used several times for major tax increase and other legislation.

The word "tax" is a thorny word for politicians. It is also thorny for the people. The words "voluntary tax" sound enticing. The fact remains: the people pay the bill, more poor people. All research shows more poor play the lottery, trying to cure their financial problems. Still, as in all gambling, in order to build a big prize, most players must lose.

According to testimony given by the people with Scientific Games (a company that handles lotteries for states), the state would receive 22 cents on the dollar for education.

On the governor's plan, I'm unable to contribute to education unless I'm willing to gamble; then, 78 cents of my dollar is "thrown to the wind" and never reaches the education fund.

On the other hand, my sales tax reaches education almost immediately, without waiting two to four years to cover the up front \$200 million cost to initiate lottery operation.

The Pride of Mississippi gambling

ship, declaring bankruptcy, has left the state holding the bag (hundreds of thousands of dollars) — proof that Mississippi cannot support big time gambling.

Initiation of lottery gambling will open the door to other types of gambling.

Let's face a fact: a fire cannot be controlled by adding fuel.

Also, moral integrity is a trait to have in government.

A. D. Entekin,  
Purvis

### Work of FMB

Editor:

As a Mississippian and regular reader, may I respond to recent letters regarding the Foreign Mission Board and perceived difficulties in getting straight answers regarding requirements.

We do not seek to "talk preachers into missionary service." The missionary call is the prerogative of the Lord of the harvest. However, with so many open doors and with more than half the requests being for church planters, we do feel a responsibility of reporting, informing, and challenging Southern Baptists, who, as a part of God's people, have an enormous responsibility to take the gospel into all the world.

It is easy to get information regarding categories of service and requirements. Many of us spend a great deal of time gladly answering those questions, providing much clear literature, and giving personal counsel of thousands of people each year. Pamphlets are mailed out and distributed at the state conventions, evangelism conferences, and in many other places. We have an initial contacts desk to take the calls of those interested in knowing more about missionary service; we have committed staff members who spend many hours a month writing letters, talking on the phone; and, in conducting interviews,

helping people find and follow God's will.

Requests originate from the 116 countries where we work. They are specific job requests and have job descriptions, and they fit into a comprehensive strategy that seeks to cover this earth with the good news of Jesus. No one is "turned away . . . for any silly reason . . . or for no reason." The God-called men and women who make up the board and staff of the Foreign Mission Board take their task very seriously.

Men and women, single and married, ordained and unordained, preachers and laypeople, Anglos and ethnics are being constantly sent out by this board. In 1989, among those appointed were six single women, three single men, and 14 ethnics.

I would be delighted to hear from any other person God is calling. Helping folks fulfill God's will in missions is what we're all about.

Bill Morgan  
Director, Missionary  
Enlistment Department  
Foreign Mission Board

### No address change

Editor:

In a recent issue of the Baptist Record, a photo and brief caption was listed under the heading Staff Changes concerning my accepting the position of staff evangelist for the Cleary Baptist Church in Florence. Because of numerous calls pertaining to this article, I feel that I need to clarify this situation. I am not leaving the field of music evangelism but have accepted the call of the Cleary Baptist Church as a prayer support base for our ministry. Our home/office address and phone will remain the same. Simply stated, our ministry will become a part of the evangelistic arm of the Cleary Church; however, this will not require a physical move to the church field.

Ronnie Cottingham,  
Music Evangelist  
Lucedale

### Thanks for help

Editor:

On Saturday evening, Dec. 9, the education building, church office, and pastor's study of Fellowship Church, Taylorsville, were badly damaged by a fire which began in the furnace room.

Fast response from volunteer fire departments in Taylorsville, Raleigh, Mize, and Stringer prevented a total loss and saved many of our contents, including hand-written records from 1870. We express again our deep appreciation to them. (We did not have contents insurance.)

Our director of missions, Billy Ballard, offered help and contacted Ray Grissett and the Cooperative Missions Department. Amazingly, in less than two weeks a mobile chapel had been moved in and set up for use in Sunday School and Discipleship Training. We were informed that there would be no charge for this service. Many people around the community have commented on the blessing of our convention's helping us in a time of need.

Dr. James Bryant and the folks at First Church, Taylorsville, have been a big help.

Mr. James Harrell met with us to begin plans to build for the future.

There has been a deep sense of God's presence and unity in working together to rebuild. The Bible teaches that we are to give thanks in everything, and we have much for which we are thankful.

Just after the fire I had an opportunity to witness to a man who came by to look at the burned building and offered to help us.

Thank you, Mississippi Baptists, for your help. Please pray for us.

By the way, our people voted last Sunday to raise our Cooperative Program and Associational Mission giving. We have faith that God will bless and guide.

Ron H. Jordan, pastor  
Fellowship Baptist Church  
Taylorsville





# Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Thursday, January 18, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

## Devotional

### But . . . why?

By Fran Pickett

"At that time the disciples came to Jesus, asking, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' So Jesus called a child, had him stand in front of them, and said, 'I assure you that unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. The greatest in the kingdom of heaven is the one who humbles himself and becomes like this child. And whoever welcomes in my name one such child as this, welcomes me'" (Matthew 18:1-5, Good News translation).

Occasionally, I'll take my twin great-nephews on an outing, and to spend the night in my home. It has been a joy, most of the time, to watch them grow and change. Their "terrible twos" started at age 1½ and lasted until they were almost 3½. For over a year now they have been in the "but . . . why?" phase of their young lives. As I attempt to answer their questions in plain, simple English, their eyes and minds absorbing every spoken word, they sometimes get a puzzled look on their faces and in their voices as they ask "but . . . why?" It seems that after every answer comes another "but . . . why?" so, with patience sometimes growing thinner, I'm usually able to satisfy them with a simpler and clearer answer. Only then does there come that look of understanding and acceptance.

It scares me when I think about how these two young boys believe everything I tell them. To them what I say is the truth and it can be no other way. Right now, in their eyes, I can do anything and everything; and sometimes they don't hesitate to ask.

It is this kind of blind faith and trust that I believe Jesus was talking about when he said that unless we change from our adult self-centered, doubting ways to a childlike faith and trust in him, then we will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

"But . . . why?" Because to non-Christians it will never happen until there comes to our heart and face that smile of understanding that God can do anything and everything and that only he can save us from our sins.

For the Christian, verses 4 and 5 tell us that we must daily seek to put aside ourselves and become childlike in our faith and belief that only through God's power and grace can anything and everything be done for his glory.

"But . . . why?" Because . . . to do so is to become more like Jesus. Pickett is director, Camp Garaywa.



Pickett

## Southeast of Johannesburg

Linda and Tommy Beard, owners of Beard's Shoes and Boots at Monticello, traveled last May to South Africa. They visited Dewi and Felicity Williams, who lived in the U.S. 1974-1980 while he was studying at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. I wrote a column about Dewi and Felicity in 1986 when they were working at The Leprosy Mission, Transkei, Southern Africa.

"We went right here, to Newcastle, southeast of Johannesburg," Linda pointed out on a map printed on a linen dish towel. "That's where Dewi and 'Flick' live now. They are buying a house with orange trees in the yard."

Since 1988, Linda said, Dewi has worked for the Kwa Zulu government; he has a lifetime appointment as director of the Ozenswili Rehabilitation Center, a handicraft center designed to give employment to persons partially disabled by leprosy, blindness, polio, retardedness, or other factors. He teaches weaving, woodwork, tapestry, and beadwork. The workers make rugs and chests; also they repair and make furniture for schools. They have beautified the grounds of the center. "One need he has at the center is for woodcraft patterns," she pointed out. The address is Dewi T. Williams, P. O. Box 15060, Newcastle, South Africa 2940.

Just before the Williamses came from Southwest Africa to Mississippi, he had surrendered to the ministry, and felt the Lord would use him to teach or preach. Since their return to Africa, doors to a pastorate have remained closed. In other ways, though, he and his wife have used their talents in Christian ministry. For a while he was a church planter. Then he was in charge of the leprosy mission in Transkei, and now is director of this rehab center, where he has chapel and Bible study every day, and is trying to help the people with whom he works to become productive, and independent of government support.

Over the years, he has served as supply preacher or assistant pastor. In his church now, he is a deacon and sometimes preaches when the church has no pastor.

Felicity, a registered nurse, operates two weekly clinics — one at the rehab center and one in a nearby black township — for leprosy patients.

Their oldest son, Gareth, almost 21, has a job in Newcastle. Aaron, 19, who finished high school in December, plans to join the Merchant Marine. The youngest, Duane, has died since I wrote the article about the family in 1986.

Linda and Tommy Beard have known the Williams family a long time. In fact, John and Clara Schoolar,

former missionaries to Southwest Africa, wrote the Beards in 1974 and asked them to prepare to do all they could for "a young family enroute to Mississippi College with only their suitcases and a barrel of goods to come by boat."

Linda recalled, "I set up the housing with the college officials by phone, took off work and did the legwork for having the utilities connected, and appealed to my Sunday School class at my church in Jackson for funds and assistance. Several of us gathered furnishings and cleaned the duplex, along with supplying some groceries." Quite a few Mississippi churches contributed to Dewi's education expenses; he preached in many Mississippi Baptist churches.

"Tommy and I saw a real commitment in their lives, and a family orientedness . . ." Linda continued. "They had a carefulness in handling funds, as well as being able to do with whatever they had, which many Americans don't. They could take something simple and make something with it."

In South Africa, Linda and Tommy met John and Phyllis Kruger, owners of Ancient Arts and Crafts, an equipment factory where Dewi bought equipment for the rehab center. Linda demonstrated Southern cooking by doing a meal for them. Her menu included chicken and dumplings, candied yams, green beans, green salad, and chocolate and lemon pies.

"One thing that interested me," said Linda, "was that little grocery stores, what we'd call a tote-sum, were all 'take-aways.' We went to a grocery store on the weekend. Security frisked Tommy, and looked in my purse before we could enter. Meat is bought at a slaughter, bread from a bakery, fresh fruit and vegetables from a nursery, and chicken and eggs from someone in the country. Many of the businesses are operated by people from India."

"There is more government control there than here. For instance, you have to have a license to own a TV. Things seemed higher to me — a TV costs \$5,000. Gas is sold by the liter and costs about \$4.50 a gallon. Exorbitant prices are charged, because so many goods are imported. Their sales taxes were 13 percent rather than our six percent."

"We saw many cattle, sheep, and goats as we drove through the country. Churches were plenty, like here."

She showed me some beautiful samples of the Zulus' handicrafts — a carved elephant and a hornbill bird.

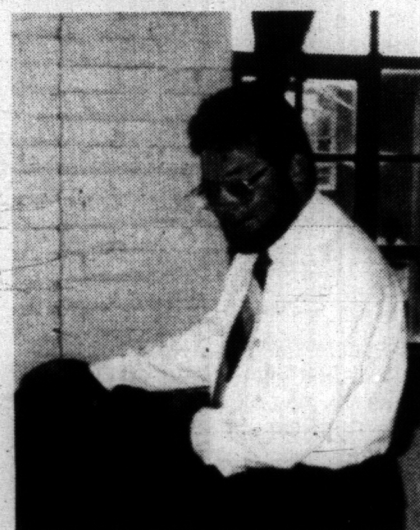
"At the Kruger National Park," she told me, "We saw zebra, elephants, giraffe, wildebeest, hippos, impala, buffalo, monkeys, kudu, and baboons. In fact, one baboon liked us so much it jumped in the car with us — and really scared me!"

She said it was good to have her dream of visiting her friends in South Africa come true, and added that Dewi still has a dream of returning to the United States some day, perhaps to teach.

"In the 15 years I have known them" she remembered, "Dewi and 'Flick' have coped with many disappointments. His father died. Doors closed to a pastoral ministry. Their son died. Yet they are still strong in their faith. He said, 'I know God has been with us through it all.'"



Linda Beard visits South Africa.



Dewi Williams teaches handicrafts.



Felicity Williams works in her kitchen.



A leper in Newcastle shows damage the disease has done to his hands.

## WMU installs O'Brien

(Continued from page 3)

as "godly women who have contributed mightily to the cause of Christ through the Southern Baptist Convention."

Through their able leadership, women throughout our convention have been mobilized, challenged, guided, informed, trained and in-

spired to study, to give and to go."

Guests of honor during the service included O'Brien's mother, Beatrice West of Birmingham, and O'Brien's children: Ross O'Brien of Arlington, Texas; Erin Puryear of Richmond, Va.; and Denise Basden of Irving, Texas.

Susan Todd writes for WMU, SBC.

## Foreign Board allocates \$100,000: relief for Romania

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Baptist layman Petrilă Traian, a Romanian refugee, spent his Christmas holidays delivering food and medical supplies to his homeland after thousands died in rooting longtime Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu from power. Traian began making daily trips into Romania on Christmas Eve. He drove his personal van from Vienna, Austria, where he has lived a number of years, to Hungary's border to re-enter his homeland.

He has been purchasing food and medical supplies in Hungary with some \$2,000 in offerings from Baptists in Vienna and \$1,000 in Southern Baptist relief funds. He also has been delivering supplies provided by the Red Cross.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas, Traian went to Arad, his hometown. The day after Christmas, he went to Timisoara, where he had been a student. An estimated 12,000 of Timisoara's 350,000 people were kill-

ed in political violence in mid-December that marked the beginning of the end for Ceausescu, who ruled Romania for 24 years.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board on Dec. 28 allocated an additional \$100,000 — \$50,000 in general relief funds and \$50,000 in world hunger funds to purchase food, medicine and other supplies needed in Romania, said Keith Parker, director of Southern Baptist work in Europe. The board is working through Hungarian Baptists, who are mounting relief efforts for Romania.

Spiritual vibrancy, in fact, is one of the hallmarks of the Baptist Union of Romania, the second largest Baptist body in Europe behind only the Soviet Union's. There are some 160,000 Baptists in 660 churches among Romania's 23.2 million people. Baptist churches, despite severe religious oppression under Ceausescu, have been baptizing some 8,000 to 12,000 people each year, according to Parker.



Gareth and Aaron Williams



# Mission Gifts Of Mississippi Baptist Churches Thru Convention Board

**Jan. 1, 1989-Dec. 31, 1989**[illegible]



**Jan. 1, 1989-Dec. 31, 1989**

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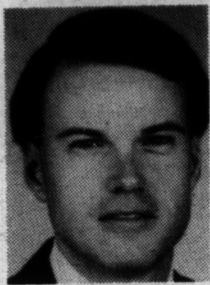


# The ups and downs of the life of faith

By N. Allan Moseley  
Joshua 6:1-7:26

The excitement level must have been unusually high in the camp of God's people. They were in wonder over the miraculous parting of the Jordan, and anticipating how God would lead them to take the land that he had given them. Over 40 years earlier, God had parted another body of water to lead the Hebrews into the Promised Land, but they had turned back in fear. Joshua's generation must have recognized that this was their opportunity to succeed where the former generation had failed.

When metal is being forged, it first must be melted; and when it is molten, it must be molded before it hardens. That period of time is crucial, and action must be taken before it is too late. God's people were poised on the west side of the Jordan — this was their molten moment. If it were not seized, they would suffer the consequences, as had the former genera-



Moseley

## BIBLE BOOK

tion. Someone has said, "The opportunity of a lifetime must be taken in the lifetime of the opportunity." This was the opportunity of a lifetime for the Hebrews.

The fact that Jericho was "tightly shut" (6:1) heightens the sense of drama and sets the stage for the necessity of the miraculous. God's instructions to Joshua concerning how the city was to be taken are found in 6:2-5. God directed Joshua to use unorthodox, even unprecedented methods of warfare. No conventional weapons were to be employed. Such unusual methods gave great emphasis to two factors — one was the glory of God, and the other was the obedience of the people.

If the fortified city of Jericho fell without one arrow shot or one spear thrown, surely both believers and pagans would recognize that it was the power of God, not the military prowess of Israel, that caused the victory. God would receive the glory, not the people. Also, God's promise would be fulfilled, since he had said, "I have given Jericho into your hand" (vs. 2).

The unorthodox method of warfare God commanded also emphasized the obedience of Joshua and the people. In the face of such unusual leadership, it would have been easy for Joshua to alter God's plan so that it would be more palatable to the people. Since Joshua followed God's plan, it would have been easy for the people to reject it, or to suggest that Joshua had misinterpreted God's leadership. However, the faith of Joshua and of the people was expressed in perfect compliance to God's battle plan.

The compliance of faith inevitably leads to the conquest of faith. Obedience to God had led to the parting of the Jordan, and then it led to the walls of Jericho tumbling down. Positive results included the glory of God, the fame of God's leader (vs. 27), the fulfillment of God's promise (vs. 2), and the blessing of one who had been a blessing to God's people (vss. 22-23, 25).

Chapter six is full of the compliance of faith and the conquest of faith, but chapter seven shows the consequences of sin. Compared to the challenge of Jericho, the defeat of Ai should have been a turkey shoot, but even the simplest of tasks fail for God's people when unconfessed sin is present. Only Achan had broken the

ban and stolen some devoted things. The tragedy was that 36 men were struck down (7:5) because of Achan's sin. One of the realities of walking with the people of faith is that we cannot choose their behavior for them, but we often must suffer when they choose the path of sin.

There are personal consequences to sin. David cried out, "When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long" (Ps. 32:3). Paul was struggling with his sin when he wrote, "Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free . . . ?" (Rom. 7:24).

Also, there are corporate consequences to sin. Achan's sin led to his own death and to the defeat at Ai. The purity of God's people at this crucial juncture necessitated Achan's execution. The same principle is at work in the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:11). Sin among God's people hurts all of God's people, so it must be purged. How many more battles would have been lost if this sin had not been dealt with adequately? Indeed, how many blessings of God are missed today by the church because of sin in our attitudes and actions?

Moseley is pastor, Bayou View, Gulfport.

## Being set free: "The truth shall make you free"

By Tommy Vinson  
John 8:31-47

In typical Johannine style our text is taken up with two major contrasts. Verses 31-40 contrast truth with error. Verses 31-47 contrast the children of the devil with the children of God.



Vinson

Jesus acknowledges that those present have, "believed on him" (v. 31), but he gives many indicators that their belief falls short of a salvation commitment. A key word here is "continue." A person is not saved by continuing, but he is saved by a faith that continues. "A faith that fizzles was faulty from the first."

Their bondage to sin and legalistic religion was a dead give-away to their lack of spiritual life (v. 32). Wrong doctrine inevitably leads to

## UNIFORM

wrong practice. Had they known "the truth," they could have been set free (v. 36). True freedom is not a license to do what you want, but the power to do what you ought. Jesus later was to say, "I am the truth." Folks who work in banks are taught to spot counterfeit money, not by studying the counterfeit, but by becoming so familiar with the real thing that they can always spot a phony. The better we get to know Jesus, who is the truth, the more sensitive we become to error.

Tragically, these followers of Jesus denied their own bondage. "We were never in bondage to any man" is a sad commentary on their blindness. They were living under the iron-fisted rule of Rome. From that very temple they could look out and see many reminders of their bondage. Apparently they had forgotten over

400 years in Egypt, and 70 years in Babylonian captivity. Like these Jews, many today say, "We are not dead in sin; we have grace, we have faith, we have the spirit," while their lives show plainly that they are totally mistaken.

Their claim to be "children of Abraham" (vv. 33, 37) was a half truth that kept them from the whole truth. Physically they could trace their lineage back to Abraham, but spiritually they gave no evidence of being a part of Abraham's covenant of faith. Their attitude toward Christ and their resulting works betrayed a dark and sinister parentage, namely the devil (v. 44). In essence, Jesus was saying the devil was a murderer, so you tried to murder me; he was a liar, so you brand everything I say a lie; he was a slanderer, so you accuse me of being illegitimate (v. 41). These folks acted as they did because of who they were — children of the devil. We are not sinners because we sin, but we sin because we are sinners.

In verse 45 Jesus said, "Ye believe not me."

Their problem with faith was not intellectual, but moral. They couldn't find Jesus for the same reason Noriega couldn't find the Drug Enforcement Agency of the United States of America. He simply didn't want to find them.

In verse 46, Jesus asked a question no other human being would ever dare to truthfully ask: "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" The word "convince" is alternately translated "prove." It implies more than an accusation. It is a conviction on the basis of evidence. Tenney comments that, "Had Jesus not been sinless, you can be assured someone in that hostile crowd would eagerly have charged him with at least one sin." Their not hearing, believing, and obeying the words of Jesus prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that they are not God's children. If they were God's children they would hear — Abraham did. They would believe — Abraham did. They would obey — Abraham did.

Vinson is pastor, Crossgates, Brandon.

## Dealing with criticism is like the weather

By Wayne Campbell  
Mark 3:19b-35; 6:1-6

Criticism is like the weather in several respects: we generally have to live with some form of it; it provides fuel for a lot of conversation; the degree to which it affects us is largely up to us.



Campbell

Dealing effectively with criticism requires that we do some evaluating. Criticism doesn't always come clearly labeled "constructive" or "destructive." It often has a certain ambivalence that calls for discernment on our part. The matter is further complicated by the fact that our critics are not always those persons whom we perceive as our adversaries. At times they are, but at other times our critics may be family or friends who misunderstand our actions or our motives. This

## LIFE AND WORK

was the case with Jesus, as recorded in Mark 3:21.

While the criticism that comes from our enemies may be more hostile in intent and expression, that which is voiced by persons who love us may be more difficult to deal with wisely because of the subtle temptations it can present. While the scribes (3:22) wanted to discredit Jesus in the eyes of the people, his family and friends apparently intended to take him home "for his own good," since they believed he was "beside himself" or "out of his mind" (NIV). Jesus was able to evaluate criticism from both sources in light of his heavenly father's will for him.

The motive behind the scribes' criticism of Jesus was evidently jealousy, while his family members were likely prompted by genuine concern for his welfare. Despite his critics, Jesus remained resolute in his commitment to his

God-given ministry (6:6).

The degree to which criticism affects us is sometimes determined by the degree of our commitment to the cause we are pursuing. Criticism and our response to it should be evaluated in light of God's word. Sometimes we may be able to glean something helpful from the criticism we receive, even if it is not offered in a spirit of helpfulness.

Benefiting from criticism depends upon our willingness to examine ourselves. This examination might involve asking ourselves such questions as: Are my actions in line with the teachings of God's word? Are my motives and intentions pure before God? Am I willing with God's help to demonstrate a Christlike spirit of love toward my critics?

There may be times when the nature of the criticism against us demands that we give a verbal defense of our actions. Jesus responded to the charges the scribes brought against him by pointing out the absurdity of their reasoning; yet he refrained from making the

confrontation a matter of personalities. When we must respond in our own defense against criticism, we need to be careful to remain close to the Lord and sensitive to his leading, lest we feel threatened and react in panic, or lest we become hostile and respond in vengeance.

The best answer to evil words is a godly life. "For so is the will of God, that with well-doing you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men" (1 Peter 2:15).

Abraham Lincoln once said, "I do the very best I know how; the very best I can; and I mean to keep on doing so to the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me will not amount to anything. If the end brings me out all wrong, then a legion of angels swearing I was right will make no difference."

Whether the criticism is directed against us personally or against the cause we represent as Christ's servants, we need to remember that it is not our critics, but God, whose judgment we ultimately face.

Campbell is pastor, Chunky Church, Chunky.

## Staff changes

C. E. Tutor has resigned as pastor, Carey Springs, Pontotoc County.

Dwight Brown is the new pastor of Big Creek Church, Calhoun County.

Mt. Moriah Church, Boguè Chitto, has called Gene Erwin as pastor. He moved there from the pastorate of the Meadville Church at Meadville. Erwin, a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary, is a native of Walker, La.

First Church, Verona, has called Dave Caldwell of Tupelo as minister of education. Caldwell, graduate of Mid-South Bible College and Mid-America Seminary, went to Verona on Jan. 1 from Tupelo, where he served the West Jackson Street Church. He is a native of Ecu.

First Church, Glendale, Hattiesburg, has called Brian Ivey as pastor. Ivey previously served as pastor of Cold Springs Church, Collins. The Jasper, Ala., native has a bachelor of arts degree from Mobile College and master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Tate Street Church, Corinth, has called Chuck Chapman as minister of education. A native of Clinton, he is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He formerly served at Lafitte Church, Saraland, Ala.

Tim Johnson, 24, of Raleigh, is the new minister of music and education at Emmanuel Church, Ocean Springs. A graduate of Clarke College and Mississippi College, Johnson is working toward a master of divinity degree at New Orleans Seminary. He has served as minister of music and youth at Mt. View Church, Meridian, and Hopewell Church, Little Rock, Miss.

These trash compactors are nothing new. We've had one for years and called it a closet — Stan Ihlenfeldt in Elkhorn, Wis., Independent.

## Off the Record

A farmer had a bloodhound of which he was very proud. A city-bred lady saw the dog, admired him and asked, "What kind of dog is that?" "He is a Bloodhound, ma'am," the farmer replied.

The lady then asked, "What does he do?"

Without cracking a smile, the farmer said, "Bleed for the lady, Homer."



# Just for the Record



Temple Church, Myrtle, in Union County Association, held a note burning on Dec. 3 at 11 a.m. This signified payment of the \$100,000 debt for a Family Life Center. Participants in the ceremony included, left to right, Harold Simmons, Kelly Taylor, James Travis, Griff Walker, pastor, and J. T. Cook.



The youth group (pictured) from First Church, Ridgeland, presented Jack DeMoney (front center) from Gamari Road Church of Greenville a check for \$415 which they raised in an effort to assist in the building program at Gamari Road.



A ground breaking ceremony was held Aug. 27, exactly 47 years later than a previous ground breaking ceremony in the same spot at West Heights Church, Pontotoc Association. Not only was the same spot of significance, but many of the same folks (pictured) were breaking the same ground 47 years earlier. The charter members, accompanied by the present building committee are Henry Rodgers, Janice Rodgers, Hubert Thomas, Doris Thomas, J. L. Pulley, and Velba Spears. The building-committee members are Jimmy Stegall, Wilton Chism, Gara Edwards, Bobby Forman, Doris Morris, Joe Pearson, Jean Rodgers, Jack Sappington, Dot Seale, and Jerry Tutor. The new 17,000 sq. ft. structure will contain an office suite, fellowship hall, kitchen, education space, and library. Johnson Associates of Tupelo are the architects. Completion date of the project is to be July, 1990. Dan Robertson is pastor.

## Charges dropped against missionary

By Donald D. Martin  
DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (BP) — A charge of "careless driving resulting in death" against a Southern Baptist missionary in Tanzania was withdrawn in a court hearing Dec. 29.

Tim Tidenberg, 29, of Loving, Texas, was involved in a car accident Nov. 15 which resulted in the death of a young Tanzanian boy. Tidenberg said the accident occurred when the child

jumped into the road as he drove by, hitting the left side of the car.

The charge, which carried a minimum sentence of two years in jail, was dropped because of a lack of evidence.

With the case behind him, Tidenberg said he is now able to look at long-term plans. "So many things have been on hold. The possibility of being transferred always hung over

any plans we considered. We can now begin to put down roots."

Both Tidenberg and his wife grew up in Africa. Tidenberg's parents were missionaries to Tanzania, and he and his family now live in the house where he grew up.

"We can show people that we are not just passing through. That's very important to folks here," he said.

Donald Martin writes for the FMB.



Bethel Church, Louisville, held a GA, RA, and Acteen recognition service recently on the theme, "Love In Any Language," reports Monica Cockrell. Those who received awards are pictured: Front row — Jared Cockrell, Lad 1 badge; second row — Lisa Sloan, Queen; Christy Ming, Mission Adventure 6; Stephanie Kelley, Queen; not pictured, Shelia Triplett, Mission Adventure 4 badge.

Popp's Ferry Church, Biloxi, will hold January Bible Study Jan. 21-24, with Tommy Hyatt as the teacher. Services on Sun. and Wed. will begin at 7 p.m. and on Mon. and Tues. will begin at 6:30 p.m. Don Snipes is the pastor.

Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, set a goal for the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions of \$18,000. The church agreed to have a birthday party for Jesus and raise that goal on one night; 503 tickets were sold. The USM Commons was the place where the people gathered. The Biblestones and the Gospeltones sang. Bill Causey brought the inspirational message. The offering was received and the total amounted to \$26,167. Additional monies have been received bringing the total to over \$27,000. That is over 150 percent of the goal. Baptist Women group promotes this offering each year. Miss Velma Jenkins is Baptist Women president. Russell Bush Jr., is pastor.

Simpson Association served as distribution center for toys for Christmas for those in need of help. A total of 403 children from 131 families were assisted. Those helping in providing toys included Magee Dinner Club, Bargain Time, McDonald's, Peoples Bank, Exxon of Mt. Olive, churches, and many individuals.

The toys were sorted by nine women from three churches, Goodwater, New Hope, and Oak Grove. Mrs. Joy Sartin, associational BYW director, was coordinator of this project. H. Glen Schilling is director of missions.

Lee Gardner was ordained to the gospel ministry Dec. 17 at First Church, Shannon.

Tommy Whaley, pastor, gave the charge to the church. Banks Hardy gave the charge to the minister.

Jones Chapel Church of Nettleton has called Gardner as pastor.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

- Jan. 21 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (CAC Emphasis)
- Jan. 21-22 "Six Sundays for Sunday School/Evangelism" (SS Emphasis)
- Jan. 22 Growth Connection Tour; 7-9:30 p.m.; FBC, Batesville/Second BC, Greenville/FBC, Yazoo City/Parkway BC, Natchez/Highland BC, Laurel (SS)
- Jan. 23 Growth, Connection Tour; 7-9:30 p.m.; FBC, Southaven/FBC, Grenada/FBC, Carthage/FBC, McComb/FBC, Escatawpa (SS)
- Jan. 24 Growth Connection Tour; 9:30 a.m.-Noon; FBC, Holly Springs/FBC, Aberdeen/FBC, Mendenhall/FBC, Columbia/FBC, Biloxi (SS)
- Jan. 25 Growth Connection Tour; 7-9:30 p.m.; Harrisburg BC, Tupelo/FBC, Meridian/FBC, Picayune/FBC, Louisville/Temple BC, Hattiesburg (SS)
- Jan. 26 Church Business Administrators Conference; Woodland Hills BC, Jackson; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (CAPM)
- Jan. 26 Area Keyboard Festivals; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; FBC, McComb/FBC, Tupelo/FBC, Grenada/FBC, Starkville/FBC, Laurel/Morrison Hgts. BC, Clinton (CM)
- Jan. 26 Area Keyboard Festivals; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; FBC, Hattiesburg/FBC, Gulfport (CM)
- Jan. 26-27 Single Adult Winter Retreat; Calvary BC, Jackson; 7 p.m., 26th-4 p.m., 27th (DT)
- Jan. 27 Area Keyboard Festivals; 9:30-11:30 a.m.; FBC, Jackson/Clarksdale BC, Clarksdale/Midway BC, Meridian (CM)

## Court hears argument in equal access case

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — Attorneys in a dispute over the Equal Access Act focused the oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court on what test should be used to trigger the law protections.

The 1984 law stipulates that if a "limited open forum" exists at a public secondary school, that school must provide student-initiated religious clubs the same opportunity to meet on school property as it does to other non-academic, extracurricular groups.

Such a forum exists, according to the law, when non-curriculum related student groups are allowed to meet on school grounds before or after the school day.

The attorney for an Omaha, Neb., school board told the justices that no limited open forum exists at Westside High School because all of the school's student clubs relate to its curriculum.

Allen E. Daubman, who represented the Westside Community Schools Board of Education, said even such groups as a chess club, scuba diving club, and service club

are related to curriculum.

He argued in favor of a standard that would allow local school boards to determine whether student clubs relate to the curriculum of a high school.

But the attorney representing Bridget Mergens, who initiated the suit against the school board, advocated a test that would determine whether a "direct connection" exists between student clubs and a school's core curriculum courses.

The dispute arose in 1985 when the principal of Westside High School and the local superintendent of schools refused to allow Mergens and a group of fellow students to form a Bible club and meet on campus.

A federal district judge upheld the school board's position that a limited open forum did not exist. But the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the ruling and ordered the school board to allow the Bible club to meet.

An opinion in the case is expected before the court ends its current term this summer.

Kathy Palen writes for the BP Washington bureau.

## Lottie Moon goal topped

A Christmas tree covered with red stars, each star outlined in gold and centered with a flag of one of the countries where Southern Baptists have missionaries — this is what the congregation of East Moss Point Church saw at the evening service on Dec. 10, 1989. Fifty three stars, each representing \$100.00, were placed on the tree. This indicated the Lottie Moon Goal of \$5,300.00 had been received. A total of 55 stars were put on the tree, since \$5,569.32 was given. Harold Anderson is pastor of this church in Moss Point.

In 1989, the HMB placed more than 42,000 volunteers on the mission field. This included choirs, youth and adult mission groups, student summer and semester missionaries, Mission Service Corps, Sojourners and Innovators (older teens and young adults), Campers on Mission and Christian Service Corps volunteers.

Baptist Record

JAN 18 1990

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